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27
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
CF-61

FOREIGN NEWS ON CITRUS FRUIT

April 3, 1929, APR 12 1929

U. S. Department of Agriculture

STATUS OF THE ISLE OF PINES GRAPEFRUIT INDUSTRY

The Isle of Pines grapefruit industry has not yet recovered from the damage suffered as a result of the 1926 hurricane, according to a report received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Vice Consul John J. Coyle at Nueva Gerona. Shipments of grapefruit to the United States and other foreign markets during 1928 amounted to only 160,000 crates as compared with 244,000 crates in 1926. Adverse market conditions and an almost continual drought have likewise severely affected the industry.

Speculators bought a large part of the 1928 crop in Nueva Gerona and growers who sold their fruit on the dock at that port reported satisfactory returns. It appears that the best prices for Isle of Pines grapefruit were obtainable in England during the latter part of July and the early part of August before large consignments of the Florida crop began to move in that direction. In order for Isle of Pines growers to be sure of a satisfactory price for their grapefruit, the fruit must be offered in all markets before the Florida product comes in, according to Vice Consul Coyle. A Cuban company began experiments during 1928 with Isle of Pines grapefruit for canning purposes.

The Isle of Pines grapefruit shipments to the United States during 1928 amounted to 84,000 crates as compared with 11,000 crates in 1927. This increase is not significant, however, when it is considered that the grapefruit business in 1927 was at its lowest level due to the effects of the hurricane of the previous year.

Many growers still have unliquidated debts and in general the grapefruit industry of the Isle of Pines is suffering from the disadvantages of uncertain weather conditions, high costs of fertilizers, freights, duties and packing materials, states Vice Consul Coyle.

GRAPEFRUIT: Exports to the United States from the Isle of Pines

Year	Crates <u>a/</u>	Value
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
1924	225,000	554,000
1925	195,000	491,000
1926	244,000	630,000
1927	11,000	29,000
1928	84,000	217,000

Source: Vice Consul Coyle at Nueva Gerona.

a/ 70 pounds net.

